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Fifty-third session

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 13. International drug control

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify paragraphs 13.6 to 13.8 of programme 13, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The changes are largely of an editorial nature, redistributing programme objectives, which remain valid, to reflect the new and leaner structure of the Programme. The principles on which the adoption of a new structure for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the reallocation of responsibilities and the decentralization of work of the Programme are based were presented in the proposed initial programme budget of the Fund of the Programme for the biennium 1998-1999, which was approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fortieth session in December 1997.

5. The revisions proposed below do not reflect the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, scheduled to be held in June 1998.

98-13248 (E) 270598

A. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 13.1 Coordination and promotion of international drug control

Paragraph 13.6 *Replace* the first sentence with the following:

"The objectives of this subprogramme, which will be implemented by the offices under the direct supervision of the Executive Director, are as follows:"

Move subparagraph (b) to paragraph 13.8 as new subparagraph 13.8 (d).

Move subparagraph (c) to paragraph 13.7 as new subparagraph 13.7 (d).

Renumber the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly.

Subprogramme 13.2 International drug control monitoring and policy-making

Paragraph 13.7 *Replace* the first sentence with the following:

"The objectives of the subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Division for Treaty Affairs, Programme Planning and Support, are as follows:"

Subprogramme 13.3 Prevention and reduction of drug abuse, elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking

Paragraph 13.8 *Replace* the first sentence with the following:

"The objectives of the subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Division for Operations and Analysis, are as follows:"

B. Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

Replace resolution 50/148 with 51/64

Economic and Social Council resolutions

Add the following resolution:

1996/17	Special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities

Subprogramme 13.1 Coordination and promotion of international drug control

Commission resolutions

Add the following resolutions:

2 (XXXIX)	Promoting projects and programmes that use involvement in sports as an effective measure to prevent drug abuse

5 (XXXIX)	Encouragement of each Member State to require the establishment by banks and other financial institutions of customer identification policies and to broaden anti-money-laundering measures, and of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to strengthen cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force
9 (XXXIX)	Measures to enhance subregional, regional and global cooperation in drug control in western and central Asia

Subprogramme 13.2 International drug control monitoring and policy-making

Economic and Social Council resolutions

Replace resolution 1995/19 with 1996/19

Add the following resolutions:

1996/20	Strengthening of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse
1996/29	Action to strengthen international cooperation to control precursors and their substitutes used in the illicit manufacture of controlled substances, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants, and to prevent their diversion
1996/30	Measures to combat diversion of psychotropic substances and to establish effective control over operations carried out by intermediaries in international trade of psychotropic substances

Commission resolutions

Add the following resolution:

6 (XXXIX)	Consideration of national master plans

Subprogramme 13.3 Prevention and reduction of drug abuse, elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking

Economic and Social Council resolutions

Add the following resolutions:

1996/18	Draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction
1997/41	Implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

Commission resolutions

Delete the following resolution:

2 (XXXVIII)	Promoting projects and programmes that use involvement in sports as an effective measure to prevent drug abuse

Add the following resolutions:

4 (XXXIX)	Establishment of a regional mechanism for the exchange of information, experience, training and ideas on demand reduction
5 (XXXIX)	Encouragement of each Member State to require the establishment by banks and other financial institutions of customer identification policies and to broaden anti-money-laundering measures, and of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to strengthen cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force
9 (XXXIX)	Measures to enhance subregional, regional and global cooperation in drug control in western and central Asia.
2 (XL)	Development and implementation of domestic legislation to strengthen justice systems and ensure compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 relating to law enforcement and judicial cooperation
4 (XL)	Pilot maritime drug law enforcement project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme
5 (XL)	Analysis of regional and global demand reduction strategies

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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 14. Economic and social development in Africa

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The revisions include the creation of two additional subprogrammes, one on promoting the advancement of women and the other on strengthening subregional activities for development, in response to new mandates adopted by legislative bodies. In reviewing the implementation and follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Dakar Regional Platform, the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning of ECA underlined the need to give a higher profile to issues of advancement of women in the work of the Commission. Similarly, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 51/69 and 52/100, and the Economic and Social Council, in particular in its agreed conclusions 1997/2, called, *inter alia*, on the organizations of the United Nations system to promote mainstreaming of the gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of their policies and programmes in order to ensure effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

5. The creation of the second subprogramme derives from the decision of the same Conference of Ministers to strengthen the multinational programming and operational centres so as to enable them to play their role more efficiently as centres of excellence for the exchange of experience and information of regional economic integration.

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6. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning of ECA reviewed the revisions proposed under this programme at its first meeting, on 24 April 1998.

A. Programme

Paragraph 14.3 In the first sentence, *replace* the word "five" with the word "seven", and at the end of the sentence *add* "(f) promoting the advancement of women; and (g) supporting subregional activities for development."

In the second sentence, *replace* the word "five" with the word "seven".

Replace the last sentence with the following: "These are gender mainstreaming and capacity-building".

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 14.1 Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

Paragraph 14.7 *Delete* subparagraph 14.7 (b).

Subprogramme 14.5 Promoting regional cooperation and integration

Paragraph 14.30 *Add* the following after paragraph 14.30:

"*Subprogramme 14.6 Promoting the advancement of women*

"14.31 The overall goal of the subprogramme, for which the African Centre for Women is responsible, is to improve the economic, social and legal condition of women. More specific objectives include:

"(a) Enhancing the leadership role of women in decision-making in both the public and private sectors, in rural and urban communities;

"(b) Promoting the economic and social empowerment of women as well as their legal and human rights;

"(c) Enhancing access of women to education, including science and technology, and to health care, including reproductive, maternal and child health care;

"(d) Promoting employment and income-generating opportunities for women.

"14.32 These objectives will be attained through awareness-raising, research, technical assistance, including facilitating networking and dialogue between policy makers, community, business and women leaders and associations. Emphasis will be placed on the promotion of policies and strategies as well as the development and implementation, in collaboration with relevant national, regional and international institutions, of projects in research and training for the advancement of women. The activities also include monitoring the implementation of regional and global plans of action, more particularly the Beijing Declaration and the Platform

for Action and the African Common Position for the Advancement of Women.

"14.33 By the end of the medium-term plan period it is expected that the activities carried out under the subprogramme will have resulted in strengthening national mechanisms for the implementation of the regional and global platforms of action; increased the number of member States that will have reviewed and enhanced their laws protecting women's legal and human rights as well as appointed women into senior policy positions in the public sector; inspired the establishment or strengthening of women's organizations and associations dedicated to eliminating cultural and social barriers to the advancement of women; and increased the network of the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, established on the initiative of ECA, as a vehicle for the economic empowerment of women in Africa.

"*Subprogramme 14.7 Supporting subregional activities for development*

"14.34 The Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development Planning, at its most recent session, renamed the multinational programming and operational centres 'subregional development centres' and decided that ECA should re-orient the subregional development centres as centres of excellence with a view to strengthening and focusing their work on development priorities specific to each subregion. The Centres are, therefore, to function as a forum for exchange of experience and information and provision of support for the implementation of regional economic integration and to enhance the Commission's presence at the subregional and country levels.

"14.35 Commission resolution 810 (XXXI) gave ECA the mandate not only to ensure that the centres play their role more efficiently but also to enable them to focus more on specific subregional priorities. In line with that mandate, the centres will undertake to implement in their respective subregions aspects of the subprogramme tailored specifically to the priorities and circumstances of individual subregions. This will result in greater recognition of the role and responsibility of each subregional development centres in the implementation of the ECA programme of work and in making each centre directly accountable for resources allocated to it and the results to be achieved.

"14.36 The goals of the subprogramme, for which the subregional development centres will be individually responsible, are:

"(a) To strengthen the operational outreach of ECA at the country and subregional levels; to increase the leverage of the Commission's resources; and to ensure harmony between subregional and regional programme operations and those defined by the strategic directions of the Commission;

"(b) To develop programmes of activities that respond creatively to the needs of member States, non-governmental and private sector organizations in the subregion;

"(c) To promote gender mainstreaming in all relevant activities;

"(d) To enhance the dissemination and outreach of the Commission's policy recommendations, information and technical publications.

"14.37 These goals will be achieved through close cooperation between this subprogramme and other subprogrammes, in particular subprogramme 14.5, Promoting regional cooperation and integration, so as to take full advantage of the synergy between the various subprogrammes and the complementarities in the activities carried out by the Commission as a whole. Activities will include the provision of advisory services to member States, regional economic communities and subregional development operators; organizing public forums; and improved networking and communications. Efforts will be made to strengthen collaboration between subregional intergovernmental organizations of subregional development centres, bilateral organizations and United Nations system agencies operating within the respective subregions.

"14.38 By the end of the plan period, it is expected that the activities under this subprogramme will have contributed to the strengthening of the capacities of regional economic communities; expanding the network of the development communities that use the Commission's services; and increasing the scope and forums for policy dialogue and the sharing of experience on development issues at the subregional level."

C. Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 14.6 Promoting the advancement of women

Add reference to the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolutions

50/203 and 52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/195	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1997/17	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Commission resolutions

824 (XXI)	Follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing Conferences: implementation of the global regional platforms for action for the advancement of women
792 (XXIX)	An integrated approach to women's empowerment: the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment
802 (XXX)	African Platform for Action: African Common Position on the Advancement of Women

Subprogramme 14.7 Supporting subregional activities for development

Add reference to the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolution

52/205	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Commission resolutions

810 (XXXI)	Strengthening of the multinational programming and operational centres
828 (XXXII)	The multinational programming and operational centres: strengthening the economic commission for Africa's subregional presence

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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 15. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below replace the narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The revisions stem from the adoption of resolution 53/1 by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 1997, and the secretariat's subsequent consultations with members and associate members of the Commission. At its 224th and 225th sessions, held on 25 March and 8 April 1998, respectively, the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission reviewed the proposals for revision to the programme. Following the ACPR's review, further revisions were incorporated into the document, which was submitted to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, held from 16 to 22 April 1998.

5. At that session, the Commission welcomed the revised programme structure, which would streamline the existing 10 subprogrammes to 7. It considered that the revised programme structure would be conducive to increased efficiency in the implementation of the programme of work of ESCAP. In view of the scope of the revisions, it was considered that their review would be facilitated by submitting the revised narrative of the programme in its entirety.

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Programme 15. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

15.1 The mandate of the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 37 (IV) and 414 (XIII), which established ESCAP. The mandate has been further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions adopted since, as well as in Commission resolutions, in particular, 47/3, 48/2 and 53/1.

15.2 The Asia and Pacific region is a most economically dynamic region, but not all the countries have been able to enjoy the benefits of the growing prosperity sweeping the region. While individual countries' priorities and policies may vary, there exists the common goal of sustainable economic growth, coupled with a focus on poverty alleviation. Against that backdrop, the overall orientation of the programme for which ESCAP is responsible is to heighten the awareness of member countries to the changes taking place, to assist those which are developing rapidly to do so in a non-destructive and beneficial way and, more important, to help the poorest countries improve opportunities for employment and economic growth, so that progress can be shared equitably by all. In this connection, the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region will be pursued. The programme will also identify key problem areas that each subregional grouping in the region is facing and develop and implement regional programmes in cooperation with United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as regional intergovernmental organizations, to give tangible assistance to the developing countries in their economic and social development.

15.3 The Commission will continue to focus on three major themes, namely, (a) regional economic cooperation, with particular reference to the role of macroeconomic variables, trade and investment, industry and technology transfer. In so doing, priority will be given to addressing the short- and longer-term impact on economic development in the South-east and East Asian countries affected by the economic crisis, and the effects of the crisis on the region as a whole; (b) environment and sustainable development that seeks to contain environmental degradation and emphasizes sound management and sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and (c) poverty alleviation through economic growth, creation of job opportunities and social development, with emphasis on human resources development and the provision of social services to the people of the region, in particular, women, youth, the elderly and the disabled. The Commission will also pursue the implementation of programmes to improve intraregional and interregional infrastructure facilities and services to enhance international trade and tourism, improve the quality of life and strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to develop sustained statistical capacities for informed policy-making, planning and programme implementation. In that connection, the Commission will give priority to assisting the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries whose economic growth achievements remain well below the regional average and the Central Asian republics whose achievements, though improving, remain negative, with the goal of narrowing the disparity in economic growth between those countries and the emerging economies in the region. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC), as well as the subregional groupings, will be further promoted.

15.4 The Commission's secretariat will continue its lead role in organizing meetings of heads of subregional organizations and in attaining a unified and effective United Nations system-wide approach to regional development through the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific and its subcommittees. It will emphasize South-South cooperation, including the triangular modality of collaboration, to guide specific activities in achieving the objectives of the various subprogrammes.

15.5 During 1996-1997, ESCAP conducted reviews of the thematic orientation of the intergovernmental structures and programmes of the Commission that were introduced in 1994. At its fifty-third session (in April 1997), the Commission recognized that the advantages of the thematic approach outweighed the disadvantages, and considered that a process of evolution was preferable to any radical change, and that the right approach would be to consolidate the gains wherever they had been made and to make the necessary changes in the case of those committees and subprogrammes where some reordering of programme areas or a clearer expression of focus could be of advantage. That was particularly felt with respect to the themes relating to poverty alleviation and environment and sustainable development. The Commission decided to retain the five-committee structure with changes as follows: (a) three thematic committees, namely, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group; the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; and (b) two other committees, namely, the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development and the Committee on Statistics. The Commission also decided to retain the two special bodies on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

15.6 The Commission considered that the revised programme structure proposed below would be the most appropriate for carrying out the programme of work efficiently:

Subprogramme 1	Regional economic cooperation
Subprogramme 2	Development research and policy analysis
Subprogramme 3	Social development
Subprogramme 4	Population and rural and urban development
Subprogramme 5	Environment and natural resources development
Subprogramme 6	Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development
Subprogramme 7	Statistics

15.7 Under the revised programme structure, two subprogrammes, "Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment" and "Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology", are merged into one subprogramme. The new subprogramme seeks to strengthen regional economic cooperation in the promotion of trade, investment and technology linkages, and the acceleration of industrial development. Three subprogrammes relating to poverty alleviation are restructured into two subprogrammes, one to deal with social development issues and concerns, human resources development, and women in development, with specific reference to the alleviation of poverty, and the other to address social and economic issues in the areas of population and rural and urban development that are directly related to the alleviation of poverty. The objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), originally under the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development, are shifted to the subprogramme on social development and to the subprogramme on population and rural and urban development, as appropriate, in accordance with the terms of reference of the relevant legislative committees. The revised programme structure is in conformity with the revised conference structure mandated by the Commission.

15.8 The discontinuation of a separate subprogramme on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries does not imply that less pre-eminence is accorded to their needs

and concerns. Work for these groups of countries will continue to be given high priority and will be mainstreamed into the work of all the subprogrammes. The implementation of activities will be undertaken under the respective subprogrammes. In addition to its own activities in respect of these countries, under subprogramme 2, the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division assumes overall monitoring and coordination responsibilities for activities related to these countries carried out under the other subprogrammes. Furthermore, a gender perspective has been integrated into the mainstream of all relevant areas of work of ESCAP in compliance with the directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The implementation of activities relating to gender issues will be coordinated by the Social Development Division under subprogramme 3.

15.9 By the end of the period covered by the plan, it is expected that the programme will have achieved the following:

(a) Gained the active and wider participation of the countries in the region in the development and implementation of regional programmes as mandated by the Commission;

(b) Accelerated follow-up to global conferences at the national level supported by the subregional and regional operational activities of ESCAP;

(c) Provided the essential regional link between the global and country levels of economic and social development programmes that would build up country-level capacity for development;

(d) Facilitated the sharing of experiences among countries at varying levels of development;

(e) Maximized the Commission's comparative advantage as a centre for policy research, analysis and information for the benefit of its member Governments;

(f) Completed analysis of the origins and effects of the current economic and monetary turmoil and formulated recommendations on ways and means for economies to avail themselves of international capital flows, while minimizing the attendant risks.

Subprogramme 15.1 Regional economic cooperation

15.10 The convergence of macroeconomic policies with increasing dependence on outward-oriented development strategies, reinforced by an intensifying trend towards liberalization across the region revalidates the rationale and widens the scope for economic cooperation in a region characterized by diversity and disparity in the levels of development. The subprogramme will seek to strengthen regional and subregional economic cooperation for promoting trade, investment and technology linkages and accelerating industrial development. High priority will be accorded to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, to facilitate their integration into the mainstream of the region's dynamic growth in trade, investment and technology flows.

15.11 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme for which the Trade and Industry Division is responsible, are:

(a) To enhance the national capacity of developing countries to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities emerging from the global trading and investment environment;

(b) To assist the developing countries, with particular attention to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to accelerate their industrial and technological development and to promote

their exports, *inter alia*, through human resource development and enhancement of the role of the private sector;

(c) To enhance regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce and to facilitate access to information technology;

(d) To strengthen policy and institutional support for the development of export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises and the advancement of women entrepreneurs;

(e) To enhance intraregional and intersubregional flows of trade, investment and technology, *inter alia*, through the strengthening of networks of institutional support services, including regional information services.

Subprogramme 15.2 Development research and policy analysis

15.12 The convergence of macroeconomic policies observed in recent years has been fostered by a marked trend towards deregulation, liberalization and structural reform in most economies in the region. This has enabled them to forge closer links with the global economy, including in the area of financial flows, which offer them opportunities and challenges for achieving sustained economic growth, equitable distribution and poverty alleviation. One of the greatest challenges that the countries face is that of coping with the potential instability caused by external shocks in an increasingly open economic environment. The interactions between domestic economic policies and increasing openness and their joint impact on sustained economic growth, poverty, income distribution and environmental issues are often inadequately understood. Countries of the region have expressed a strong desire to cooperate with each other in sharing experiences in practices and policies to tackle these common issues. In addition, the countries of the region have acknowledged a widening degree of complementarity among their economies with intent to exploit this to their mutual benefit through various forms of regional cooperation, including the streamlining of national economic policies and their harmonization wherever possible.

15.13 However, the large number of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries in the region face serious structural and institutional constraints in fully reaping the benefits from domestic policy reforms, increasing openness and greater regional cooperation. The constraints include low rates of savings and investment, high dependence on a few products for exports, inadequate infrastructure, and shortage of skills and trained manpower. Low administrative capacities and other institutional constraints have limited their ability to implement their reform programmes. Moreover, the island developing countries encounter special difficulties, including geographic isolation and fragmentation, shortage of land-based resources and diseconomies of scale, resulting in high costs of infrastructure, investment and production, while the landlocked countries face transit and transport problems that impede their growth.

15.14 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division, in cooperation with the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, is responsible, are:

(a) To increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region, to highlight trends and emerging problems and to draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns;

(b) To contribute to the awareness and understanding on the part of national policy makers of the possibilities for and constraints vis-à-vis the implementation and management of macroeconomic policies conducive to sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation

and the integration of environmental concerns into macroeconomic decision- and policy-making processes;

(c) To enhance the understanding of policy makers of financial and macroeconomic instability arising from external shocks and to assist in strengthening institutions and policies to cope with such instability;

(d) To strengthen the institutional capacity for achieving sound economic governance in countries of the region consonant with their increasing exposure to the global economy, in particular in the area of finance;

(e) To advocate those policies which promote regional cooperation in economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of shared experiences and the growing complementarities among economies of the region;

(f) To strengthen national capacities in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries in areas related to flows of official development assistance, external debt and implementation of regional and global mandates aimed at the improvement of their economic and social condition, including the realization of key objectives of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and any successor programme. In addition, for island developing countries, to enhance the capacity of Governments to analyse, devise policies and build machinery for the effective implementation of measures identified at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(g) To meet the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and economies in transition in the areas of macroeconomic reforms, policy management and resource mobilization and use through the provision of analysis, technical assistance and advisory services;

(h) To enhance human resource development in the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the economies in transition, especially developing the skills of public officials, in particular in the areas of macroeconomic policy formulation, appraisal and management of development projects and sectoral areas of priority interest to the countries concerned.

Subprogramme 15.3 Social development

15.15 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Social Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To enhance region-wide awareness of critical social development, human resources development, and women in development issues, with specific reference to poverty alleviation;

(b) To promote the formulation and implementation of effective social policies, plans and programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, strengthening family support and enhancing the quality of life of all social groups, including women, youth, older persons and disabled persons, and pursuing vigorous development of the region's human resources endowment;

(c) To strengthen national capabilities to implement at the regional level the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (1995); the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1997); the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1994); the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1997); the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing (1992); the Agenda for Action for the Asian

and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (1994); and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);

(d) To promote partnership among Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in planning and implementing social development, human resources development and women in development policies, plans and programmes;

(e) To promote the empowerment of social groups, in particular women, youth, older persons and disabled persons, through such means as increased equality in the access to productive resources and social services, and promotion of legislation on equal opportunities and full participation in development;

(f) To promote inter-agency cooperation and joint action on social issues related to poverty alleviation, human resources development, women in development, youth development, older persons, disabled persons, and drug demand reduction and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

15.16 In the implementation of work to achieve the above objectives, special attention will be paid to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as to the economies in transition.

Subprogramme 15.4 Population and rural and urban development

15.17 The subprogramme will focus, *inter alia,* on (a) the identification and understanding of social and economic issues in the areas of population and rural and urban development that are directly related to the alleviation of poverty; (b) advocacy to increase the awareness of the critical issues in population and rural and urban development among policy makers, civil society and individuals; and (c) the development of appropriate population, rural and urban strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor. Priority will be accorded to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, specifically those relating to sustainable rural development.

15.18 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To increase the understanding of the complex interrelationships involved in population and rural and urban development, with special emphasis on the rural and urban poor, population and reproductive health dynamics, gender issues, migration, employment and production, and the environment;

(b) To strengthen the technical, managerial and organizational capacities of Governments at all levels to formulate integrated population, rural and urban development policies and programmes for alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life, taking into account the regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in 1994, and the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of Governments and regional and international associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and other regional or subregional groupings to develop regional human settlement plans of action addressing priority issues specific to the Asia and Pacific region as a follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(d) To increase and strengthen civil society partnerships with broad participation, by promoting participatory approaches at local, community and higher levels in dealing with population issues and rural and urban development;

(e) To promote economically and environmentally appropriate usage of technologies aimed at achieving sustainable agricultural and rural development;

(f) To improve the processing, management, communication and dissemination of population and rural and urban development data and information, particularly that required for advocacy within the civil society and for the formulation of effective poverty alleviation policies.

Subprogramme 15.5 Environment and natural resources development

15.19 The challenge for the region is to reverse the deteriorating environmental trends. The goal is to strengthen national capacities in achieving environmentally sound development and sustainable natural resources development and management. Focus will be on the regional and subregional strategies and action programmes that emerged from recent global conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992, and on the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in June 1997. At the same time, efforts will be made to integrate a gender perspective into the activities under the subprogramme. To that end, the objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To promote integration of environmental considerations into social and economic decision-making at the national, subregional and regional levels; to assist Governments in strengthening capacities of national institutions for development and implementation of environmental policies and plans; and to promote increased roles of major groups and the private sector, as well as enhanced public awareness and participation, in environmental protection;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of Governments in formulating and implementing policies for the sustainable development and management of energy through sound choices of energy options, energy demand management, energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of new and renewable energy technologies;

(c) To facilitate a regional dialogue to promote regionally coordinated national energy plans in the context of overall economic development plans, through the periodic exchange of views and experience in the implementation of energy policies and plans on possible subregional energy/power networks and on common environmental protection initiatives;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of Governments in the formulation of policies and implementation of plans and programmes on assessment, integrated development and management and protection of water resources, and in implementation of innovative approaches for demand management and for efficient use of water;

(e) To facilitate regional cooperation in environmental management of mineral resource development, and to strengthen national capabilities in the formulation of policies and strategies for the implementation of programmes for the development of mineral resources and investment promotion in the sector, and for the application of geologic aspects in land use and urban planning;

(f) To promote regional cooperation on space technology applications and strengthen national capacities in the applications of remote sensing, geographical

information system and other spatial information technologies for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, disaster management and development planning;

(g) To promote the development, application and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for environmental protection and sustainable development of natural resources to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development;

(h) To assist Governments in their efforts in water-related and geologic natural disaster reduction through promotion of prevention and preparedness measures, including risk analysis, structural and non-structural measures, and hazard monitoring.

Subprogramme 15.6 Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

15.20 Although the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific has come to an end, the need to address in an effective manner the issue of inadequate and inefficient infrastructure facilities and services continues, as demonstrated by the Commission's adoption of the New Delhi Action Plan on infrastructure 1997-2006 in its resolution 51/8. The need to accord greater priority to tourism in the work of ESCAP was emphasized by the Commission at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions. To that end, the objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, are:

(a) To improve the planning process in developing infrastructure facilities and services at all levels, and to improve the efficiency of their administration, management and operation in the countries of the region;

(b) To promote private sector participation in national infrastructure development through financing, management, operations and risk-sharing, with a view to developing transport, communications, tourism and infrastructural aspects of electric power required to sustain the economic and social growth process;

(c) To promote the development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages to enhance international trade and tourism, through the implementation of Commission resolutions 52/9 and 48/11, with emphasis on the integrated Asian land transport infrastructure development project comprising the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects, as well as land transport facilitation measures. The formulation of Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks will be completed and action plans to improve efficiency of transport along those networks, with particular reference to landlocked and transit countries, will be formulated. The secretariat, in close cooperation with other international organizations, will also promote freight forwarding and multimodal transport to facilitate integrated land-cum-sea transport;

(d) To improve policies for planning tourism development, with a clear understanding of the economic impact of tourism; strengthen national capabilities in the development of human resources in the tourism sector and, in particular, tourism marketing; minimize the environmental impact of tourism; and promote tourism investment, facilitation of travel and regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development. The needs of Pacific island countries, least developed countries, economies in transition and countries in an early stage of tourism development will receive special attention;

(e) To increase safety and safe working practices in transport and communication operations and to reduce the adverse environmental impact of the provision of infrastructure facilities and services to acceptable levels. The secretariat will strengthen its assistance to member countries in promoting the safe transport of passengers and goods, in particular

hazardous goods, while maintaining a clean environment, and in implementing environmental impact assessments in relation to infrastructure development and operation;

(f) To increase the participation of economically and socially disadvantaged groups and women, through the provision of and access to infrastructure facilities and services, with a view to making qualitative and quantitative improvements in their living standards. The secretariat will assist member countries in promoting more equitable spatial distribution of economic activities, providing easier access to social amenities, including education and health facilities, and generating employment opportunities.

Subprogramme 15.7 Statistics

15.21 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Statistics Division, are:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of the countries of the region in achieving or making further progress towards sustained national statistical capabilities for the purposes of informed policy-making, planning, programme implementation and monitoring of progress. Special efforts will be made to improve the statistical capability of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as economies in transition to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data needed for their economic and social development, thereby strengthening their information and statistical base. In the implementation of the subprogramme, greater recognition will be given to the growing competencies of the countries themselves in contributing to capability-building activities;

(b) To widen the scope and improve the accessibility and international comparability of the statistical information compiled and disseminated by the secretariat, taking into account user demands. To that end, the focus will be on greater use of electronic technology in the acquisition and provision of data and information, and on reducing the response burden of countries;

(c) To strengthen the role of the countries of the region in the development of international standards, the use of improved methodology for data collection, processing and analysis, and the greater utilization of statistics. In line with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the secretariat will initiate and coordinate at the regional level the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of the countries of the region;

(d) To enhance the understanding of the role of information technology and promote the applications of that technology, as well as information resource management in the region, especially in the public sector.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 15.1 Regional economic cooperation

General Assembly resolutions

50/101	Science and technology for development
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
51/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
51/167	International trade and development

51/175 Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

51/240 Agenda for Development

Commission resolutions

47/2 Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific

48/1 Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation

48/8 Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region

49/3 Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific

50/8 Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia

50/9 Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer

51/5 Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT)

51/6 Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century

52/10 Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment

52/11 Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation among the south-western member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization

Subprogramme 15.2 Development research and policy analysis

General Assembly resolutions

47/190 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/191 Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/194 Capacity-building for Agenda 21

51/240 Agenda for Development

S-19/2 Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Least developed countries

49/94 Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

50/103 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

51/164 Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

Landlocked developing countries

51/168 Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

52/183 Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

Island developing countries

49/122 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

52/202 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Commission resolutions

47/5 Regional support for the alleviation of poverty

48/1 Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation

48/5 Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

48/8 Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region

51/4 Agenda for action on social development in the ESCAP region

51/6 Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century

52/8 Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

Least developed countries

49/8 Strengthening assistance to least developed countries

Island developing countries

48/9 Strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries

Subprogramme 15.3 Social development

General Assembly resolutions

49/162 Integration of older women in development

50/42 Fourth World Conference on Women

50/81 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

50/103 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

50/107 Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

50/144	Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/145	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
51/65	Violence against women migrant workers
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/82	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/193	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
52/195	Women in development
52/196	Developing human resources for development

Commission resolutions

47/5	Regional support for the alleviation of poverty
48/3	Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
48/5	Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond
48/6	Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region
49/6	Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
50/7	Update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region
51/2	Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific
51/4	Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region
51/7	Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific
51/10	Regional cooperation for the eradication of the demand for drugs subject to abuse and related problems
52/3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
52/4	Promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific
52/5	Regional cooperation in response to the spread and consequences of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the Asian and Pacific region

53/2 Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women

53/4 Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 15.4 Population and rural and urban development

General Assembly resolutions

51/176 Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

52/25 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

52/93 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

52/190 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Commission resolutions

49/4 Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century

50/3 Participatory human settlements development

52/6 Promotion of environmentally sound and healthy cities

Subprogramme 15.5 Environment and natural resources development

General Assembly resolutions

47/190 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/191 Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/194 Capacity-building for Agenda 21

49/28 Law of the sea

50/117 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

51/123 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

S-19/2 Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

52/198 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

52/202 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Commission resolutions

45/5 Fulfilling the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the ESCAP region

47/7 Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific

47/8	Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems
49/7	Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific
51/11	Regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
51/12	Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific
52/7	Transfer of environmentally sound technology
52/8	Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific
53/3	Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

Subprogramme 15.6 Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

General Assembly resolutions

51/168	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
52/183	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries
52/187	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Commission resolutions

48/1	Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation
48/6	Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region
48/11	Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures
49/7	Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific
50/8	Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia
51/6	Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century
51/8	Implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific
52/9	Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges

Subprogramme 15.7 Statistics

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts

1995/7 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Commission resolution

246 (XLII) Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific

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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 16. Economic development in Europe

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. As indicated in paragraph 18.11 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, (A/52/6/Rev.1, vol. II), the proposals for revision of this programme reflect the reform package embodied in the ECE Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-second session, in April 1997. The Plan of Action provides a comprehensive framework for translating into action the strategic directions highlighted in the ministerial Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe. Both the Declaration and the Plan of Action were subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/224.

5. The Plan of Action provides orientation of the ECE programme of work according to three main principles: (a) focusing on areas where ECE has recognized expertise and proven advantages; (b) flexibility in the methods of work; and (c) strengthened cooperation/coordination with other regional/subregional organizations.

6. A consequence of the refocusing has been a streamlining and rationalization of the programme of work and a reduction in the corresponding intergovernmental machinery, from 14 subsidiary bodies to 7. All principal subsidiary bodies have been requested to rank

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their activities in order of priority and to define precise programmes of work for any new related bodies, with a time-frame and "sunset" clauses. The principal subsidiary bodies and their respective bureaux have also been requested to review the programme of work of other international organizations periodically in order to develop synergies and to avoid duplication, leading to an improved division of tasks and cooperation.

7. In addition, the refocusing has also led to a reorganizing of various subprogrammes; some areas of work have been strengthened, namely, environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and development of international trade; other areas have been streamlined and reoriented, namely, energy, timber and human settlements; the area of economic analysis has been reorganized with further concentration on the analysis of economic developments and problems in the transition economies as well as of the interdependencies within the ECE region; and the subprogramme on industry and technology has been discontinued, with some remnant activities moved to other subprogrammes.

8. The proposed revisions were reviewed by the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work established under the ECE Plan of Action to, *inter alia*, give advice on adjustments to the programme of work (see the Plan of Action (E/1997/36), annex IV). The Group of Experts met on 11 March 1998 and its suggestions were taken into account in preparing the proposals below.

A. Programme

Paragraphs 16.1 and 16.2

Replace paragraphs 16.1 and 16.2 with the following:

"16.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of ECE, is to strengthen the economic relations of the European countries, among themselves and with other countries of the world, by elaborating economic data and analysis, negotiating conventions, norms and guidelines, and enabling dialogue and exchange of information and experience. In that context, the integration efforts of countries with economies in transition into the European and global economies will be a priority. More diversified forms and methods of assistance to those countries must be developed: (a) to respond to their growing demand for policy analysis and guidelines; (b) to assist them to adhere to region-wide standards; (c) to improve their capacity to adopt legally binding instruments; and (d) to promote ways to develop their products to obtain access to and capture larger shares in western markets.

"16.2 More generally, assistance will be given to countries and groups of countries, at their request, by the regional advisers and through the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities. Renewed attention will be given to the reconstruction of war-torn areas and to cooperation with ECE member countries in the Mediterranean region, as well as neighbouring countries of the same region, where economic and social development will be essential to underpin the peace process in the Middle East and future cooperation between European and North African States in that area."

Paragraph 16.3 At the end of the paragraph, *add* the words ", most recently, the Declaration on Strengthening Economic Cooperation in Europe and its annexed Plan of Action, both endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/224".

Paragraph 16.4 *Add* a new paragraph 16.4 as follows:

"16.4 The reform identified gender-mainstreaming as a cross-sectoral concern that is an integral part of the ECE strategic directions. Along that line, the Plan of Action stipulates that mainstreaming the gender perspective has to permeate all ECE activities and all principal subsidiary bodies will therefore take this into account when they prepare, adopt and implement their programme of work."

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 16.4 (New paragraph 16.5) At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* the following:

"In particular, ECE will continue to make the results of its work in norms, standards and guidelines available to the countries of other regions. In so doing, it will make full use of its cooperative undertakings with the other regional commissions and the global programmes of the Organization".

In subparagraph (c), after the words "the Council of Baltic Ministers", *add* the words "and the South Eastern European Cooperative Initiative"and *delete* the last sentence.

Add a new subparagraph (d) as follows:

"(d) Strengthened involvement of the private sector in the work of ECE."

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 16.1 Environment

Paragraph 16.6 (New paragraph 16.7) *Replace* the text of the chapeau of the paragraph with the following:

"The ultimate goal of the subprogramme is to reduce environmental loads throughout the region to levels that will not cause any significant harmful effects nor compromise environmental conditions for future generations. More specific objectives, to be pursued under the responsibility of the Environment and Human Settlements Division, are:".

Subprogramme 16.2 Transport

Paragraph 16.7 (New paragraph 16.8) In the fourth sentence, *add* the words "customs questions affecting transport," after the words "the construction of vehicles,".

Delete the last sentence.

Paragraph 16.8 (New paragraph 16.9) In the second sentence, *replace* the words "second Pan-European Ministerial Transport Conference (Crete, March 1994)" with the words "Pan-European Ministerial Transport Conferences recently held (Crete, March 1994; Helsinki, June 1997)."

Paragraph 16.9 In the last sentence, *replace* "1996" with "1997".
(New paragraph 16.10)

Subprogramme 16.3 Statistics

Paragraph 16.11 *Replace* the paragraph with the following:
(New paragraph 16.12)

"16.12 The overall objectives of this subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Statistics Division, are to coordinate all international statistical work across the region and to make a direct and substantive input to the work on statistical development in the region. To that end, the subprogramme will strive:

"(a) To respond in an efficient and effective way to the priorities and needs of national statistical offices in the ECE region through the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme, which coordinates the statistical work of all other international agencies active in the region and determines a common set of country-specified aims and outputs;

"(b) To ensure that essential macroeconomic and other statistics on the ECE region are collected, processed and made available in a timely manner both to users within the framework of ECE – in particular the Economic Analysis Division and a number of principal Subsidiary Bodies – and to other international organizations relying on ECE for that data collection and processing;

"(c) To address the particular circumstances and needs of economies in transition in the field of statistics through the regular work programme as well as through regional advisory services and technical assistance activities;

"(d) To create the capacity in countries with economies in transition to use the system of national accounts effectively and to provide social indicators for their policy needs;

"(e) To improve national statistics;

"(f) To promote coordination and uniformity of concepts;

"(g) To ensure that ECE makes full use of appropriate information technology so as to provide the ECE secretariat with an information systems service and graphics design service aimed at achieving maximum efficiency."

Subprogramme 16.4 Trade facilitation

Paragraphs 16.12 and 16.13 *Delete* the subprogramme

(As decided within the framework of the ECE reform, this subprogramme is being incorporated into the revised subprogramme 16.7, Trade, industry and enterprise development, as described below.)

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs and subprogrammes accordingly.

Subprogramme 16.5 Economic analysis
(New subprogramme 16.4)

Paragraphs 16.14 to 16.16
(New paragraph 16.13)

Replace paragraphs 16.14 to 16.16 with the following:

"16.13 ECE work in the field of economic analysis contributes to economic integration as it permits the exchange of views and information on complex economic problems and policies, thereby improving mutual understanding among countries of the ECE region, providing an international perspective for national policy makers and, when appropriate, facilitating the convergence of their policies. This subprogramme, implemented by the Economic Analysis Division, has the following objectives:

"(a) To produce, through the *Economic Survey of Europe*, the analysis of economic developments and problems in the countries with economies in transition and their economic and financial relations with other countries of the ECE region and the rest of the world. In line with the Plan of Action, it is intended to increase the analyses of structural change and institutional problems and to provide more frequent analysis of macroeconomic developments in the countries with economies in transition. Those general directions will be reflected in a new format of the *Survey*, namely, an annual volume of three issues. The first issue of each volume will focus on developments in the ECE region in the past and coming year, with special emphasis on the economies in transition and their relations with the rest of the world; it will also deal with selected structural and institutional aspects of the transition process. The second will address selected topics, including other areas of ECE work. The third will focus on the trade and external financial relations of the economies in transition and will replace the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*;

"(b) To organize policy debates on economic problems and policies of countries of the ECE region on the basis of the *Economic Survey*. In this respect, a seminar will be held immediately prior to the annual session of the Commission to which economists from government, academic and business sectors, as well as from other international organizations, will be invited. The conclusions of the seminar will provide an input to the economic debate that will take place on the first day of the annual session;

"(c) In collaboration with UNFPA, to pursue the population activities, with a reduced resource base, relating to reproductive and family behaviour, international migration and population ageing, progressively focusing on the latter."

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Subprogramme 16.6 Energy
(New subprogramme 16.5)

Modify the title of the subprogramme to read "Sustainable energy".

Paragraph 16.18 *Replace* subparagraphs (c) and (d) with the following:
(New paragraph 16.15)

"(c) To address issues such as the restructuring of the energy sector in the context of sustainable development, including energy reforms in Central and Eastern Europe, integration of energy systems, and new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium term, including pricing policies and interconnection of electric power and gas networks in the region;

"(d) To develop and implement norms and standards, including labelling and classification systems, for the sustainable production and use of energy, and to assist in the harmonization of legislation and policies dealing with the exploitation and use of energy".

Delete subparagraphs (h), (i) and (k) and *renumber* the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly.

Subprogramme 16.7 Development of international trade
(New subprogramme 16.6)

Modify the title of the subprogramme to read "Trade, industry and enterprise development".

Paragraph 16.19 *Insert* three new subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e) as follows:
(New paragraph 16.16)

"(c) To facilitate regional and international trade by simplifying, rationalizing and, where possible, standardizing procedures, formalities and requirements where these place a financial and economic burden on the free flow of goods and transport. This work on trade facilitation has the following objectives: (i) to act as the international focal point for trade facilitation standards and recommendations, in particular through the newly established Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT); (ii) to develop and maintain the international standard for electronic data interchange, the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), in the context of a network of national, regional and international institutions engaged in the development and promotion of these standard activities; (iii) to enhance the dissemination of information on trade facilitation, in particular through electronic media. In this context, use of the trade facilitation database and the Internet/World Wide Web will be developed further; (iv) to strengthen cooperation and information exchanges with other regional commissions, UNCTAD and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working in the context of trade facilitation in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to create synergy in common

projects; and (v) to promote United Nations/ECE standards on the commercial quality of agricultural produce to facilitate foreign trade and distribution in domestic markets throughout the ECE region;

"(d) To increase the awareness of member countries, in particular those with economies in transition, of developments in the field of coordination and harmonization of standardization policies, conformity assessment and metrology at the international, regional and national levels. Since sound metrological practices are the basis for quality assurance, testing and certification, ECE will develop its training programme aimed at senior metrologists from countries with economies in transition. The subprogramme will also facilitate the sharing of experience of the development market economy countries that have recently adapted their legislation and administrative practices to conform with the relevant provisions of WTO and EU, with those countries which have not yet done so;

"(e) To foster activities at the interface of government and private sector responsibilities to promote the development of enterprise, in particular in countries with economies in transition, for ensuring an efficient and well-functioning market economy. Those activities will be grouped around the important cross-sectoral issues identified by the ECE Plan of Action, namely, collection of information about market trends and prospects, promotion of sustainable development and policies of privatization and restructuring. Within that framework, activities in the steel and chemical industries will continue to contribute to the integration of the market economy at the regional and global levels through the promotion of business, trade and investment and actions to promote enterprise development."

Paragraph 16.20 (New paragraph 16.17) *Delete* the first sentence and the word "Also" at the beginning of the second sentence.

Subprogramme 16.8 Industry and technology

Paragraphs 16.21 to 16.24 *Delete* the subprogramme.

(As decided within the framework of the ECE reform, this subprogramme is being discontinued. Some of its sectoral activities have been retained and moved to the revised subprogramme 16.7, Trade, industry and enterprise development. A few others might be taken up by the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities, depending on specific requests from groups of member States.)

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs and subprogrammes accordingly.

Subprogramme 16.9 Agriculture and timber (New subprogramme 16.7)

Modify the title to read "Timber".

(Following the implementation of the ECE Plan of Action, substantial revisions were made with respect to this subprogramme. All the ECE agricultural activities were abolished, except the work on the promotion of the ECE standards for commercial quality of agricultural produce, which became a part of subprogramme 16.7, Trade, industry and enterprise development. Timber activities are carried out, as before, under the auspices of the ECE Timber Committee.)

Paragraph 16.25 *Delete* the paragraph and *renumber* the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 16.26 *Replace* the paragraph with the following:
(New paragraph 16.18)

"16.18 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Trade Division, are:

"(a) To contribute to the achievement of sustainable management of the forest and timber sector in the ECE region by the early years of the twenty-first century, maintaining an appropriate balance between the productive, social and environmental functions of the forest. In that context, the subprogramme will help Governments, as requested, in the implementation of the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Pan-European Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe;

"(b) To focus sharply on the following core activities: regular collection and publication of statistics; Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment 2000; indicators of sustainable forest management and monitoring of forestry assistance for countries with economies in transition (both developed for the Pan-European Ministerial process); review of forest products markets; and long-term outlook for the forest and timber sector;

"(c) To emphasize an integrated sector-wide approach, covering forestry, markets for forest products and trade in forest products. The Timber Committee continues to maintain its close partnership with the FAO European Forestry Commission, with which it has an integrated work programme on timber and forest issues at the regional level. The cooperation with other international organizations, including ILO, UNEP, EU, the International Tropical Timber Organization and OECD will be maintained and strengthened."

Subprogramme 16.10 Human settlements
(New subprogramme 16.8)

Paragraph 16.27 *Replace* the paragraph with the following:
(New paragraph 16.19)

"The subprogramme is expected to result in the development and practical implementation of new strategies in housing policy, land

administration, urban renewal and sustainable human settlement development based on best practices and case-studies. It will also contribute to the capacity-building process in countries with economies in transition and to the establishment of housing markets and related legislation."

Paragraph 16.28 (New paragraph 16.20) *Replace* subparagraphs (a) to (f) with the following:

"(a) To promote the development of reforms in the housing and related building and financial sectors in countries with economies in transition, involving also local authorities and the private sector, in order to obtain affordable housing for all;

"(b) To promote cadastre and land registration systems, in particular with reference to countries with economies in transition, and with due regard for basic land management legislation, cadastral measures, land information systems and organization and management of the cadastre;

"(c) To promote sustainable consumption initiatives at the local level by raising public awareness about the environmental impact of individual consumption, introducing incentive measures and encouraging close cooperation and partnerships between central Governments, local and regional authorities and other major groups;

"(d) To strengthen international cooperation in the development and implementation of human settlement policies striving towards environmental, economic and social soundness and sustainable development, monitoring and analysing results in the implementation process and coordination of those policies with overall national sustainable development objectives, and building institutional capacity and professional know-how".

Paragraph 16.29 *Delete* the paragraph.

C. Legislatives mandates

Add the following as the mandate for the whole programme:

Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (E/1997/36, annex III) and Plan of Action (ibid., annex IV), adopted by the Commission on 22 April 1997 and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/224.

United Nations A/53/6 (Prog.17)

General Assembly

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Original: English

Fifty-third session

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 17. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below include a new subprogramme 17.12, Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development, under programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The inclusion of the new subprogramme responds to a number of resolutions by the General Assembly (in particular resolution 52/100) and agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council calling for mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

5. The proposed revision was reviewed by ECLAC at its twenty-seventh session, convened in Aruba from 11 to 16 May 1998.

A. Programme

Paragraph 17.3 *Add* a new subparagraph (g) as follows:

"(g) Contributed to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into major aspects of economic, social and political activity of the countries of the region."

98-13266 (E) 280598

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 17.5 Social development and social equity

Paragraph 17.11 *Delete* subparagraph (d) and *renumber* the subsequent subparagraph accordingly.

Subprogramme 17.11 Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Paragraph 17.23 After paragraph 17.23, *insert* the following:

"*Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development*

"17.24 Although the status of women has improved considerably in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past few years in terms of access to public education, health services and participation in the labour market, significant obstacles still remain to the full involvement of women in regional development and, more specifically, in the decision-making process in their respective societies. The problems and challenges posed by the need to improve the status of women in the region have been a focus of attention and efforts for the member States and secretariat of ECLAC for many years. A clear consensus is now emerging in the region as to the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective into all major aspects of economic, social and political activity. As part of that undertaking, ECLAC has been called upon to play an active role in promoting the necessary courses of action to catalyse the process.

"17.25 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Women and Development Unit is responsible, are as follows:

"(a) To contribute to the operational consolidation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms that promote the full involvement of women in regional development. To that end, the ECLAC secretariat is expected to play an active role in supporting regional mechanisms for consensus-building in relation to gender equity such as the regional conference on women and its presiding officers. In addition, collaboration with governmental offices for women's affairs will be strengthened in areas such as the supply of gender-related information and the provision of training on substantive, methodological and logistical matters, with a view to enhancing their institutional, human resource development and inter-sectoral coordination capabilities so as to enable them to meet the increasing demand for their services;

"(b) To expand knowledge on gender-related issues in the region by promoting and supporting analytical research activities conducted by the countries of the region on priority issues relevant to the full integration of women into development and to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into all major fields of economic and social activity. Those issues are defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001. To that end, the secretariat plans to carry forward and expand its research

work on gender issues. It will also contribute to the shaping by consensus and consolidation of a regional position on gender issues in international debates within the United Nations system;

"(c) To guide and focus the substantive efforts of the units of the ECLAC system to mainstream the gender perspective in all their programmes and projects, especially in technical cooperation activities for development provided by ECLAC to its member States. To that end, emphasis will be placed on putting into place procedures for systematic coordination of substantive tasks with the efforts undertaken by the other organizational units of ECLAC to design and apply gender-sensitive methodological tools. An effort will also be made to strengthen inter-agency coordination on gender issues, in particular with the organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system that are active in the region."

C. Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development

Add reference to the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolutions

50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
51/69	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1997/17	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action
1997/54	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations
1997/61	Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

United Nations A/53/6 (Prog.18)

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 18. Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The revisions aim at emphasizing the right to development and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the plans, policies and programmes of ESCWA, in line with the mandates adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and relevant subsidiary bodies.

5. Owing to the biennialization of its calendar of meetings, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia did not meet in 1998 and therefore did not review the revisions. ESCWA member States will be apprised of the revisions through the report on the activities of the Commission that is dispatched to them in the year when the Commission does not meet.

A. Programme

Paragraph 18.1 At the end of the paragraph, *add* "and mainstream the gender and right to development perspectives into those dimensions".

Paragraph 18.3 *Add* a new paragraph 18.4 to read as follows:

98-14486 (E) 290598

"18.4 ESCWA will also work towards implementing article 8, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It will assist its member States in ensuring that they undertake all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and ensure, *inter alia,* equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. ESCWA will also support the efforts of Governments to ensure that women have an active role in the development process and that appropriate economic and social reforms are undertaken in eradicating all social injustices."

and *renumber* the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 18.4 (new paragraph 18.5)

In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words, "especially gender-disaggregated statistics," after the word "region".

Add a new subparagraph (h) to read as follows:

"(h) Ensuring that gender and issues pertaining to the right to development are mainstreamed into the plan, policies and programmes of ESCWA."

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 18.1 Management of natural resources and environment

Paragraph 18.6 (new paragraph 18.7)

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) To contribute to the design and propagation of schemes for more rational utilization and conservation of freshwater resources, taking into consideration the need for increasing public awareness and ensuring the participation of men and women in local communities in the management and use of water, implementation of water projects and environment protection programmes."

At the end of subparagraph (d), *add* "in full compliance with the various articles of the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses in the region".

Insert a new subparagraph (e) to read as follows:

"(e) To encourage optimal utilization of freshwater resources, enforcement of efficient water pricing and demand management, taking into consideration the social well being of the disadvantaged."

Paragraph 18.7 (new paragraph 18.8)

At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* ", and encourage the development of programmes for the efficient use of energy".

Paragraph 18.8 (new paragraph 18.9)

In subparagraph (c), *insert* the words "in selected priority areas" after the words "sectoral development".

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

Paragraph 18.11 (new paragraph 18.12) In the first sentence, *replace* the word "four" with the word "five".

At the end of the paragraph, *add* "and the World Conference on Human Rights. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all activities will be accorded priority".

Paragraph 18.12 (new paragraph 18.13) In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "gender-sensitive" before the words "demographic analysis".

Replace subparagraph (c) with the following:

"(c) To increase understanding of the linkages between population factors, gender, poverty, human rights and environment."

Paragraph 18.13 (new paragraph 18.14) At the end of subparagraph (a), *add* ", taking into consideration the feminization of poverty".

Paragraph 18.14 (new paragraph 18.15) In subparagraph (a), *replace* the word "four" with the word "five".

At the end of subparagraph (c), *add* "and act as a catalyst in mainstreaming a gender perspective into development policies, plans and programmes".

Paragraph 18.15 (new paragraph 18.16) At the end of subparagraph (a), *add* "and assess their impact on the quality of life".

At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* "aiming at the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing".

Subprogramme 18.3 Economic development and global changes

Paragraph 18.17 (new paragraph 18.18) In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "debt management" after the words "finance".

At the end of subparagraph (c), *add* "and integration in the global financial system".

Subprogramme 18.5 Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

Paragraph 18.21 (new paragraph 18.22) In the first sentence, *insert* the words "gender-disaggregated" after the words "comparability of".

In the second sentence, *insert* the words "gender-sensitive" after the word "appropriate".

Paragraph 18.22 (new paragraph 18.23) In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "and gender sensitive" after the word "accuracy".

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) To expand the coverage of the subprogramme to new statistical areas, especially in the field of gender-sensitive and social statistics as required for follow-up action on the

implementation of the recommendations emanating from the above-mentioned world conferences, and in monitoring the exercise of the right to development".

In subparagraph (e), *insert* the words, "gender-disaggregated" after the words "to develop".

C. Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

Add the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolutions

41/128	Declaration on the right to development
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/136	Right to development
52/148	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
52/195	Women in development
52/196	Developing human resources for development

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United system

Commission on Human Rights resolution

1997/72	The right to development